

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): An alloy endowed with high-temperature mechanical strength in an oxidizing medium, ~~said alloy being free of molybdenum and/or tungsten and~~ comprising a chromium-containing matrix strengthened by precipitation of carbides, wherein said alloy comprises carbides of at least one metal (M) selected from the group consisting of titanium ~~[[,]]~~ and zirconium ~~and hafnium~~, said carbides optionally further containing comprising tantalum (M'), wherein the alloy consists essentially of the following elements (the proportions being indicated in percentages by weight of the alloy):

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Cr</u> | <u>23 to 34%;</u> |
| <u>Ni</u> | <u>6 to 12%;</u> |
| <u>M = Zr or Ti</u> | <u>0.2 to 7%;</u> |
| <u>M' = Ta</u> | <u>0 to 7%;</u> |
| <u>C</u> | <u>0.2 to 1.2%;</u> |
| <u>Fe</u> | <u>less than 3%;</u> |
| <u>Si</u> | <u>less than 1%;</u> |
| <u>Mn</u> | <u>less than 0.5%;</u> |

the balance consisting of cobalt and inevitable impurities.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least 0.2% carbon by weight.

4. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the metal M, and optionally M', in a metal/carbon molar ratio $(M+M')/C$ of around 0.9 to 2.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5% titanium by weight.

7. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5% zirconium by weight.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 1 to 7%.

11. (Withdrawn): An article for the hot smelting or conversion of glass, made of an alloy as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which has undergone a forging operation after the alloy has been cast.

13. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which consists of a fiberizing spinner for the manufacture of mineral wool.

14. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing an article as claimed in claim 11, comprising the casting of the molten alloy in a suitable mold.

15. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing mineral wool by internal centrifugation, in which a stream of molten mineral material is poured into a fiberizing spinner, the peripheral band of which is pierced by a multitude of orifices via which filaments of molten mineral material escape that are then attenuated through the action of a gas into wool, wherein the temperature of the mineral material in the spinner is at least 1200°C and the fiberizing spinner is made of a cobalt-based alloy as claimed in claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the molten mineral material has a liquidus temperature of around 1130°C or higher.

17. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least 0.6% carbon by weight.

18. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the metal M, and optionally M', in a metal/carbon molar ratio $(M+M')/C$ of around 0.9 to 1.5.

19. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.4 to 5% titanium by weight.

20. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.4 to 3% zirconium by weight.

21. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 2 to 6%.